



The Magazine

*Williamsburg Chapter - Virginia
Society
Sons of the American Revolution*



Vol. XL

Number 22

December 2024

President's Message

Compatriots,

This month's issue will contain a few pages more than usual. Many thanks to major contributors Bob Davis and Bruce Laubach and to Williamsburg Chapter, DAR, members KJ Corbett and Sherril Buckner for their frequent submissions. Thank you, also, to all the others who have contributed their photographs over the course of the year.

The November luncheon saw our attending membership unanimously voting in the proposed slate of chapter officers for 2025. We will have two new members joining the board in January. Stuart Butler will replace Tatton Mason as historian. Mike Braswell will serve as secretary vice Gerry Ward. Tatton and Gerry performed their duties well and we wish them success in the future. Four compatriots were inducted during the meeting: Kevin Brown, Adam Brown, Stephen Brown, and Michael Buckner. The luncheon's award ceremony recognized many compatriots, and DAR members, for jobs well done and their strong support of chapter activities.

On 19 November 2024, four Colonial Williamsburg Foundation employees were recognized for their superlative support of our annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day commemorations. These individuals' direct support to SAR ranged from five to ten-plus years. The awardees were Marianne Johnston (awarded the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal), Amy Ritche (Bronze Good Citizenship Medal), William Schermerhorn (Silver Good Citizenship Medal), and Mark Schneider (Silver Good Citizenship Medal). They directly contributed to the growth and pageantry of these important commemorations. Compatriots present included Ron Adolphi, John Lynch, Ron Miller (color guard), Ray Duncombe, and Bruce Laubach. Many thanks to all who enabled this event!

Happy Holidays!

Respectfully,

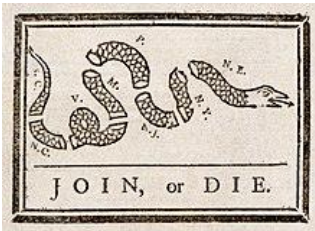
John Lynch - President, Williamsburg Chapter, VASSAR



Calendar

*In Memoriam: Compatriot
Robert Schmidt*

Monday Jan. 6, 2025
7:00pm BOM meeting by ZOOM



Saturday Jan. 11, 2025
Officer Induction Dinner Meeting
5:30 pm Social/6:00pm Dinner
James River Country Club
Newport News

Speakers wanted for future chapter luncheons!

Vice President Ron Adolphi reports that he is always on the lookout for good speakers related to the Revolutionary War and colonial period. Please send any suggestions to him at ronald.adolphi@cox.net or call 757-645-3430.

Chapter News



VASSAR President Bill Greaif, Williamsburg Chapter President John Lynch, Bruce Laubach, and Ron Miller attended the Norfolk Chapter's Skirmish at Kemps Landing commemoration in Virginia Beach on 16 November 2024 (photo by Peggy Laubach).



Veterans Day!



Compatriots from the Williamsburg Chapter helped comprise the Color Guard for Veterans Day at Colonial Williamsburg on 11 November 2024 (photos courtesy of John Lynch).

Challenge Coin!

An Official Williamsburg Chapter Challenge Coin!

Recently, the Board of Managers decided to create an official challenge coin for the Williamsburg Chapter. After exploring several options, the BOM decided to feature the Colonial Williamsburg Powder Magazine on the coin's obverse, as it is an iconic Williamsburg landmark with a close association to the American Revolution. With cooperation and permission from The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the BOM also secured an image of the Powder Magazine (currently undergoing restoration) that accurately depicts what it looked like in the 18th century based on the most current historical and archeological research.

Our new challenge coin costs **\$20 per coin** and will be available for sale at our chapter luncheon chapter meetings. Be sure to buy one (or more) while supplies last!

Side A



Side B





UPCOMING EVENTS!

14 December: Wreaths Across America Commemoration –
Cedar Grove Cemetery, Williamsburg

11 January: Battle of Westfields Commemoration – Charles
City County

1 February: SAR Monument Dedication – Warsaw
(Presidential Initiative)

7-8 February: VASSAR Annual Conference



SAVE THE DATE(S)

*Bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour
2024-2025*



*The American Friends of Lafayette
is the proud official sponsor of the
commemoration of Lafayette's Farewell Tour.*

www.friendsoflafayette.org
www.lafayette200.org
americanfriendsoflafayette@gmail.com



Williamsburg Chapter DAR Wreaths Across America Event – 12/14/24

Compatriots and friends,

You are invited to attend this important event, organized by the Williamsburg Chapter DAR. On December 14, 2024 at 12:00 pm (Wreath Placement Immediately Following Ceremony), Wreaths Across America will be at Cedar Grove Cemetery to Remember and Honor our veterans through the laying of Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud. Thank you in advance for supporting the Williamsburg Chapter DAR, Cedar Grove Cemetery, and Wreaths Across America at this memorable event!



SAVE THE DATE

Our annual officers induction dinner will take place on January 11, 2025 at the James River County Club in Newport News. As is our custom, it will be a joint event with our friends/fellow Compatriots at the Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter. The social hour will start at 5:30pm, followed by dinner at 6:00pm. Please join us for this great event!



Instructions to sign up and information about cost will be forthcoming. Also, payments must be received in advance – no payments at the door.

Registrar's Corner – By Hunt Berryman, Registrar

Congratulations and welcome to the following new compatriots:

Andrew Corbett, patriot ancestor Richard Harvin

Aaron Corbett, patriot ancestor Richard Harvin

Chris Phillips, patriot ancestor John Griffin

David Clinkinbeard, patriot ancestor John Clinkinbeard

Andrew and Aaron are the son and grandson of compatriot George Corbett. Inducted into the society at our November meeting and pictured below were Michael Buckner, accompanied by his wife Sherril, and Kevin Brown, pictured with his wife Renee, granddaughter Emmy, mother in law Ceres Gillis and sister Kelly Lemons.



Tidewater Virginia Patriot of the Month

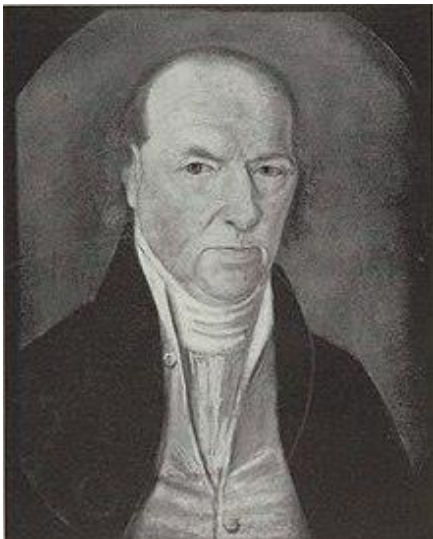
John Blair Jr.
(1732-1800)

Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court

John Blair Jr. (April 17, 1732 – August 31, 1800) was an American Founding Father, who signed the United States Constitution as a delegate from Virginia and was appointed an Associate Justice on the first U.S. Supreme Court by George Washington.

A Virginia lawyer since 1757, Blair represented the College of William and Mary in the House of Burgesses (while his father served on the Governor's Council) and served in various colonial offices after giving up his local law practice. In the prelude to the American Revolutionary War, Blair had served as a commissioner of admiralty to enforce regulations promulgated by the Virginia Revolutionary Conventions, then on the committee that prepared the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Constitution of 1776. He served for over a year on the Council of State before being appointed as one of the judges of the General Court, the new Commonwealth's first appellate court. He also served on the High Court of Chancery, which was a predecessor of the Virginia Court of Appeals (now the Virginia Supreme Court.[2] Blair was one of the best-trained jurists of his day.

A widely respected legal scholar, he avoided the tumult of state politics, preferring to work behind the scenes. He was devoted to the idea of a permanent union of the newly independent states and was a loyal supporter of fellow Virginians James Madison and at the Constitutional Convention. While serving on the Supreme Court, he influenced the interpretation of the Constitution in a number of important decisions. Contemporaries praised Blair for his ability to penetrate to the heart of legal questions, as well as his gentleness and benevolence (Source: Wikipedia).



Williamsburg Chapter Membership-Mentor Committee

The Williamsburg Chapter has always had the reputation of being a welcoming and active chapter. To enhance that tradition, the Board of Managers has asked me to chair a Membership-Mentor Committee. The membership goals will be to grow member participation in chapter activities and to actively follow up with members during our fall dues campaigns to improve member retention. The mentor goals will be to assign a mentor for all new and transfer members. The role of the mentor is to actively engage with new and transfer members for six months to answer their questions to ensure a smooth transition. Currently, Mike Doucette, Hunt Berryman and Ron Miller have signed on to help. We need a few more good men; so, if you would like to help, please contact me.

Thanks.

Roger Cross (Past President)
757-869-6303

Wanted: An Assistant Newsletter Editor/Webmaster

Help Wanted

The Williamsburg Chapter is looking for a Compatriot who would be interested in serving as Assistant Newsletter Editor/Webmaster.

The role would entail supporting the Newsletter/Webmaster with the newsletter, website, and social media efforts. If interested, please contact Sean Heuvel (Williamsburg Chapter Newsletter Editor/Webmaster) at sheuvel@cnu.edu

Chaplain's Corner – By George Corbett, Chaplain

A Christmas Reflection

As we begin the celebration of our Saviors birth, I thought I would take a little look at what Christmas would have been like in colonial times. What I found was somewhat surprising. In 1674, parliament set down strict rules against the celebration of Christmas due to its original pagan roots. In Roman times, it was celebrated to honor various pagan gods. These restrictions followed colonists across the Atlantic. While in the northern colonies, the Puritans strictly followed these rules, the southern colonies, to include Virginia, ignored them. In the northern colonies, it was just another day of work in service to the Lord, while in the southern colonies it was an “adult” holiday celebrated with parties, hunts, feasting and church services. Christmas began on 25 December and lasted for 12 days until 6 January which was known as the Twelfth Day. Many of our traditions followed the various settlers based on their traditions from their European homelands. The Christmas tree was brought to us by the Germans while the Yule Log came in via the Norse settlers.

As we begin this holiday with family and friends, let us rejoice for the greatest gift ever given to mankind, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

2024 Williamsburg Chapter SAR Officers



President	John Lynch II
Vice President	Ron Adolphi
Secretary	Gerry Ward
Treasurer	Bill Dorn
Registrar	Hunt Berryman
Public Relations	Robert Davis III
Newsletter Editor/Webmaster	Sean Heuvel
Chaplain	George Corbett
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stephen Holm
Historian	Tatton Mason
Member-at-Large	Stephen McGuffin
Member-at-Large	Michael Doucette
Immediate Past President	Bruce Laubach

2025 Officers - Williamsburg Chapter SAR

President	John Lynch
Vice President	Ron Adolphi
Treasurer	William Dorn
Secretary	Mike Braswell
Registrar	Hunt Berryman
Public Relations	Robert Davis
Newsletter/Webmaster	Sean Heuvel
Chaplain	George Corbett
Sergeant at Arms	Steve Holm
Historian	Stuart Butler
Member at Large	Stephen McGuffin
Member at Large	Michael Doucette

Congratulations to our new slate of officers!



SAR GIFTS AND FASHIONABLE APPAREL



SAR apparel is available at (502) 589-1779 or on the National SAR WEB site at:

<https://store.sar.org/storefront.aspx>



8778
Personalized Name Badge
(Name Tag) - Pocket
Attachment Nametag

\$25.00

There has been confusion on how to add this item to the cart. There is a statement that says "I understand personalized items are not refundable" that has a small box after it on the bottom of the page where the personalized items are added. You must click that box before the "ADD PERSONALIZED ITEM TO CART" button will become active. Unless you click the box agreeing that Personalized items are not refundable, the item can not be added to the cart.

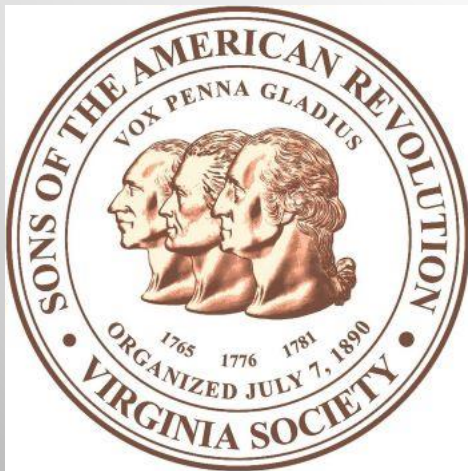
Personal Name Badge link is:

[https://store.sar.org/categories.aspx?Keyword=personalized%20name%20badge%20\(name%20tag%20\)](https://store.sar.org/categories.aspx?Keyword=personalized%20name%20badge%20(name%20tag%20))



Highlights from 2024!

Special Supplemental Edition (photos and captions submitted by Bob Davis unless otherwise noted)



January – New Officers Sworn In

New Williamsburg Chapter officers were sworn in at the January 2024 joint meeting held with the Thomas Nelson Jr Chapter.



February (1) – George Washington Wreath Laying

On February 22, 2024 the Williamsburg Chapter of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution held a Commemoration of George Washington's Birthday and Wreath Presentation at the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, Virginia. Presentations were made by representatives from the Virginia Society SAR, Thomas Nelson Jr Chapter SAR, Williamsburg Chapter SAR, Comte de Grasse Chapter DAR, Williamsburg Chapter DAR, Ann Wager Chapter DAR. Greeting and remarks were offered by John Lynch, Williamsburg Chapter President.



February (2) – New Kent County Wreath Laying

On February 3, 2024 a wreath laying ceremony yesterday at the historic New Kent County courthouse. The ceremony honored African American patriots of the American Revolution born or lived in New Kent County. The attached photo has (L to R) John Lynch, Williamsburg Chapter SAR President; Mr. Stephen Sears aka James Lafayette, the Guest Speaker; Steve Holms, Sgt-At-Arms, Williamsburg Chapter SAR and George Corbett, Chaplain, Williamsburg Chapter SAR. Photo by Karen Corbett and caption by George Corbett.



March – James Madison’s 273rd Birthday

It was a beautiful day on March 16, 2024 for the celebration of James Madison’s 273 birthday. Attending were a good number of SAR and DAR organizations as well as a Marine color guard attachment from Quantico who presented a Presidential wreath (photo and caption by Steve McGuffin).



April – ROTC Award Presentation

On April 11, 2024, Williamsburg Chapter President John Lynch presented the ROTC Silver Medal to William & Mary Army ROTC Cadet Kadesha Gibbs.



May – Berkeley Shipyard Marker Dedication

On May 5, 2024 a marker was dedicated to commemorate the Berkeley Shipyard. Compatriot Mike Doucette is shown here with other members of the Color Guard (photo by John Lynch).



June – Battle of Spencer's Ordinary Dedication

The Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Williamsburg Chapter held the Commemoration of the Battle of Spencer's Ordinary at Freedom Park, James City County, Virginia on June 22, 2024. The battle took place on June 26, 1781 between a detachment from the Marquis de Lafayette's army, commanded by Colonel Richard Butler and a British unit commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John G. Simcoe's Queens Rangers, Highlanders and Hessian Jaegers under the command of Lord Cornwallis. This battle was a prelude to the events in Yorktown, October of 1781.



July (1) – Annual Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving

On July 4, 2023, the 39th Annual Service of Prayer & Thanksgiving was conducted at Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg, Virginia by The Revd Lauren M. McDonald and John Lynch, President, Williamsburg Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. Pictured are the attending members of the Williamsburg Chapter.



July (2) – Battle of Green Springs Commemoration

On July 6, 2022 the Commemoration of the 243rd Battle of Green Spring was held by the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Williamsburg Chapter and the Daughters of the American Revolution at the Church on the Main, James City County, Virginia. This battle in 1781 was the largest engagement between the British and the Patriots in Virginia before the Siege of Yorktown. Pictured are the Williamsburg Chapter Color Guard, Commanded by Gary Dunaway, beside the Green Spring Memorial honoring the Patriot Soldiers from Virginia and Pennsylvania buried nearby. Photo by Bruce Laubach.



August – Frank Shatz Recognition Event

On August 19, 2024 noted newspaper columnist and Holocaust survivor Frank Shatz was awarded the SAR Silver Good Citizenship Medal by a delegation of VASSAR and Williamsburg Chapter SAR officials.



September – Lt. Col. William Langborn Grave Marking Ceremony

On September 13, 2024 a grave marking ceremony was held to honor Lt. Col. William Langborn at Saint Peter's Episcopal Church in New Kent County. Several Compatriots from the Williamsburg Chapter served in the Color Guard.



October – Bicentennial of Lafayette's Visit to Green Spring

On October 22, 2024 the Williamsburg Chapter of SAR held a commemorative ceremony to mark the bicentennial of Lafayette's visit to the Green Spring Battlefield. General Lafayette visited this site during his tour to celebrate 50th anniversary of the American Revolution. During the ceremony Chapter President John Lynch talked about the role of Gen, Lafayette and some of the Patriot soldiers that also fought during the battle.



November – Williamsburg Chapter Awards

On Nov 7, 2027 Chapter president John Lynch presented the SAR's America's 250th Anniversary pin to Chapter Vice President Ron Adolphi, Raynor Duncombe, Cici Adolphi, George and Kathy Corbett, Gary Dunaway, Bruce Laubach, Ron Miller, Alan Saunders, and Harley Stewart (photo by Peggy Laubach).